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Message Text

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11
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 EB-07

COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 FTC-01 JUSE-00 SAJ-01 /079 W
---------- 003202
R 101056Z FEB 76
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6362

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 02247

DEPT FOR JACK BLUM, SENATE FOREIGN RELATION
COMMITTEE STAFF.

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: MASS
SUBJ: CHURCH SUB-COMMITTEE HEARINGS ON LOCKHEED

REF: BONN 1935

1. GERMAN PRESS IS GIVING ONLY MODERATE COVERAGE
TO TESTIMONY IN OPEN SESSIONS OF SENATE SUB-
COMMITTEE ON MULTI-NATIONAL CORPORATIONS.
EMPHASIS IS ON REPORTS THAT LOCKHEED GAVE
$8,000 TO TWO MAJOR POLITICAL PARTIES AND MADE
PAYMENTS TO LUFTHANSA OFFICIALS. DUESSELDORF
HANDELSBLATT FEBRUARY 9 POINTS OUT THAT
TESTIMONY IN OPEN SESSION DOES NOT CONFIRM
EARLIER PUBLICIZED CHARGES OF ERNST HAUSER
THAT LOCKHEED HAD GIVEN $10 MILLION TO FRANZ
JOSEF STRAUSS AND HIS CSU PARTY AS PART OF
F-104 G DEAL. PAPER SAYS THAT STRAUSS AND CDU
IN LETTER DATED JANUARY 13, 1976 HAVE ASKED
SENATOR CHURCH FOR TRANSCRIPT OF HAUSER'S
TESTIMONY (NOT GIVEN IN OPEN SESSION).
SIMILAR REQUESTS ACCORDING TO HANDELSBLATT
HAVE COME FROM THE FRG AND FROM FORMER
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LUFTWAFFE COMMANDER GENERAL RALLE.

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2. THE FRANKFURTER RUNDSCHAU OF FEBRUARY 6 REPORTS A STATEMENT BY A LUFTHANSA SPOKESMAN CHARACTERIZING THE ALLEGATIONS AGAINST LUFTHANSA PERSONNEL AS NOT BELIEVABLE AND SAID THAT WHILE HE COULD NEITHER CONFIRM NOR DENY THAT THERE WERE PAYMENTS FROM LOCKHEED, LUFTHANSA HAD NO KNOWLEDGE OF ANY. HE NOTED THAT SINCE THE PURCHASE OF SUPER-CONSTELLATIONS BY LUFTHANSA IN 1955, LUFTHANSA HAD HAD NO DIRECT BUSINESS RELATIONS WITH LOCK-HEED.

3. IN A COMMENTARY UNDER THE BY-LINE OF ITS WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT, JURGEN KRAMER, THE STUTTGARTER ZEITUNG OF FEBRUARY 9 NOTED THE GREAT SURPRISE OF THE PRESS AND OF FRG AND CSU REPRESENTATIVES WHO HAD COME TO OBSERVE THE HEARINGS THAT GERMANY, WHICH WAS EXPECTED TO BE THE MAIN FOCUS OF THE HEARINGS, WAS ONLY LIGHTLY TOUCHED ON. KRAMER ASKS IF THE SUB-COMMITTEE HAD RE-EVALUATED THE TESTIMONY OF ITS STAR WITNESS, HAUSER, AND DECIDED IT WAS NOT WORTH HEADLINES. HE NOTES THAT SUBSEQUENT TO HAUSER'S OCTOBER 1975 TESTIMONY IN CLOSED SESSION, STRAUSS IN MID-JANUARY 1976 HAD URGED SENATOR CHURCH AND SECRETARY KISSINGER TO MAKE HAUSER'S TESTIMONY ACCESSIBLE. THE SECRETARY THEN WROTE TO SENATOR CHURCH SUPPORTING THIS REQUEST BUT WITHOUT RESULT. THE CSU MADE A SUBSEQUENT

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COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 FTC-01 JUSE-00 SAJ-01 /079 W
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UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 02247

DEMARCHE THROUGH A NEW YORK LAW FIRM. KRAMER SUGGESTS THAT ALL THIS CAUSED A RE-EVALUATION OF HAUSER'S TESTIMONY, WITH THE RESULT THAT HE WAS NOT EVEN MENTIONED AT THE OPEN HEARING. KRAMER CONCLUDES, HOWEVER, THAT THE FACT THAT THE HEARING BROUGHT OUT RELATIVELY LITTLE ABOUT GERMAN PERSONS BEING IMPLICATED DOES NOT MEAN THAT THEY ARE IN FACT INNOCENT. HE POINTS OUT THAT IT IS NOT THE TASK OF THE US CONGRESS TO ASCERTAIN SUCH QUESTIONS.

4. THE VISIT OF A FRG DEFENSE MINISTRY OFFICIAL TO WASHINGTON TO SEEK EVIDENCE ON POSSIBLE IMPROPER BEHAVIOR OF FRG OFFICIALS IN CONNECTION WITH AIRCRAFT SALES NOTED REFTEL WAS THE SUBJECT OF A PRESS QUESTION TO FRG SPOKESMAN BOELLINQER ON FEBRUARY 9. HE CONFIRMED THE OFFICIAL'S TRIP AND SAID IT WAS PRIMARILY FOR THE PURPOSE OF SEEKING EVIDENCE ON DEFENSE MINISTRY OR MILITARY PERSONNEL. IF, HOWEVER, THERE WERE INDICATIONS THAT POLITICAL PARTIES HAD BEEN INVOLVED, THE GOVERNMENT WOULD LOOK AT THE RELEVANT FILES.

5. A WASHINGTON POST ARTICLE BY LAURENCE STERN
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PREDICTING THAT MATERIAL IMPLICATING THE CDU AND STRAUSS WOULD BE MADE PUBLIC BY THE CHURCH SUB-COMMITTEE WAS CARRIED IN THE INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE JANUARY 9 AND WAS PICKED UP BY GERMAN NEWS MEDIA.
CASH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BRIBERY, PRESS COMMENTS, POLITICAL PARTIES, CENTRAL LEGISLATURE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BONN02247
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760050-0370
From: BONN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760265/aaaacfea.tel
Line Count: 159
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 BONN 1935
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: blochd0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17 JUN 2004 by oatisao>; APPROVED <06 DEC 2004 by blochd0>
Review Markings:

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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CHURCH SUB-COMMITTEE HEARINGS ON LOCKHEED
TAGS: MASS, GE, LOCKHEED
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006